



Montana Department of  
**LABOR & INDUSTRY**  
Commissioner's Office

Contact Casey Kyler-West, Communications Director

E-mail: [ckylwest@mt.gov](mailto:ckylwest@mt.gov)

Telephone: (406)444-1520

Fax: (406)444-1394



Date 8/26/13

**For Immediate Release:**

**Montana's Workplace Deaths Decreased in 2012**

**(Helena, MT)** Workplace deaths in Montana decreased by 15 in 2012, with a total of 34 work-related fatalities, according to the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI) study report released today by the Montana Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Analysis Bureau. "This is good news for Montana's workers and employers. It is also a reminder that no matter how safe we think our workplaces are, whether it's in the office or on the road, we must remain vigilant and watch out for one another", said Labor Commissioner Pam Bucy.

Transportation incidents remained the most frequent type of fatal work related event and accounted for 13 (38 %) of the 34 fatal occupational injuries to Montana workers during 2012.

- Contact with objects and equipment resulted in seven fatalities, as did falls; each category accounting for 21% of the 2012 fatalities.
- Exposure to harmful substances or environments caused three fatalities, or 9%.
- Assaults & violent acts accounted for two fatalities, 6 % of the total.
- 18 (53%) of the employees fatally injured worked for others, earning wages or salaries; 16 (47%) were self-employed workers -- including farmers and paid and unpaid family workers.

Goods-producing industries accounted for 21(62%) of the fatal work injuries in 2012, with Service-producing industries accounting for ten (29%) and Government accounting for three (9%).

The age category with highest number of workplace fatalities was the 45-54 years category with 14 deaths (41 %), followed by the 55-64 years category with seven deaths (21 %).

The CFOI study includes data for all fatal work injuries, whether they are covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Act or other federal or state agency regulations, or are outside the scope of regulatory coverage.

The fatality census, conducted throughout the nation, is part of a U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Safety and Health Statistics program that provides a complete count of fatal work injuries in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Fatality statistics are used to fulfill a commitment to increasing safety in the workplace.

Information on work-related illnesses is excluded from this census because of the latency period of many occupational illnesses and the resulting difficulties associated with linking illnesses to work.

For additional information, or a copy of the report, contact Peggy Coggeshall at the Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau, 406-444-2430 or [pcoggeshall@mt.gov](mailto:pcoggeshall@mt.gov).

###